

REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the amendments above and the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-49 were previously pending in this application. Within the Office Action, claims 1-49 have been rejected. By the above amendments, claims 1, 14, 27, 37, 41, 42, 43, and 47 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1-49 are currently pending.

The Applicant and his attorneys would like to thank the Examiner for her time and courteousness during the telephone interview on Monday, November 1, 2004. During the interview, differences between the present claims and U.S. Patent No. 6,253,188 issued to Witek et al. (hereafter "Witek") were discussed. It was agreed that by removing the word "capability", the present rejections would be overcome.

Accordingly, by the above amendment each of the independent claims 1, 14, 27, 37, 41, 42, 43, and 47 have been amended to replace each instance of keyword search capability, hierarchical search capability, dichotomous key search capability, and parametric search capability with keyword search, hierarchical search, dichotomous key search, and parametric search, respectively.

By the above amendments, the independent claims 1, 14, 27, 37, and 42 are allowable over Witek, and the independent claims 41, 43, and 47 are allowable over Witek in view of Drucker et al. (U.S. 6,292,796).

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-49 are now in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, she is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 530-9700.

Respectfully submitted,
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